

# News from Legislator John Mills



PROUDLY SERVING THE 11TH DISTRICT

ANGOLA, BOSTON, BRANT, COLLINS, CONCORD, EDEN,  
EVANS, FARNHAM, GOWANDA, ORCHARD PARK,  
NORTH COLLINS, SARDINIA, SPRINGVILLE



Fall 2012

## Proposed 2013 Budget reviewed by Legislature



The Minority Caucus, led by Minority Leader John Mills, will be proposing amendments to the County Executive's tentative budget to eliminate the 3.4% property tax increase.

The proposed 2013 Erie County budget was released by the County Executive on Oct. 15, 2012, along with some concerns. The \$1.4 billion budget increases the tax levy by \$8 million and asks taxpayers to pay an additional 3.4 percent on their property tax bill in 2013.

"I was extremely

disappointed to see that the County Executive asked county taxpayers to pay higher taxes. I firmly believe that county government cannot and should not ask taxpayers to pay higher property taxes and I don't think everything has been done to avoid that," said Legislator Mills.

Along with his colleagues in the Minority Caucus, Legislator Mills is working to amend the proposed budget, eliminating the proposed tax hike. The Legislature is expected to vote on the budget on Dec. 4, 2012.

Before finalizing the budget, the Legislature held hearings with department heads and commissioners Tuesday, Nov. 13 through Thursday, Nov. 15.

On Monday, Nov. 19, the public hearing will be held at 5 p.m., offering residents an opportunity to speak on the proposed budget. The hearing is held at 92 Franklin St., Fourth Floor, Buffalo, NY 14202.

Anyone unable to attend, can submit their statement in writing to the Clerk of the Legislature, 92 Franklin St., Fourth Floor, Buffalo, NY 14202.

Residents can review the budget online at [www.erie.gov](http://www.erie.gov) and budget books are available at each of the library branches.

To speak with Legislator Mills about the tentative 2013 budget, please call (716) 858-8850 or email [john.mills@erie.gov](mailto:john.mills@erie.gov).

### Special points of interest:

- LEGISLATORS HELP PROMOTE 4-H
- LIBRARY FUNDRAISERS HUGE SUCCESS
- INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS HONORED

### Inside this issue:

HOW TO JOIN 4-H	2
RABIES CLINICS	2
HOT DOG ROAST FUNDRAISERS	3
YELLOW DOT PROGRAM	3
CONTACT INFORMATION	4
PROCLAMATIONS	4
CITIZEN OF THE MONTH TO BE UNVEILED	4

## Take the survey - Do you support a tax increase?

The County Executive has submitted his 2013 budget to the Legislature, seeking its approval. The \$1.4 billion budget increases spending, which results in a 3.4% property tax increase.

Legislator Mills wants to know what you think of the proposed tax increase and

how your tax dollars should be spent. A survey is posted on Legislator Mills' website, and you are encouraged to offer your feedback as the Legislature prepares to amend and vote on the 2013 tentative budget.

To take the survey, please visit Legislator Mills' website,

[www.erie.gov/legislature/district11](http://www.erie.gov/legislature/district11); or request a paper copy by calling (716) 858-8850.

Your participation is appreciated as the Legislature works to meet the demands of taxpayers and balance the budget.

# News from Legislator John Mills

## 4-H Informational Meeting attracts new members



Legislator Mills and Legislator Dixon talk with 4-H member Joshua Moscato of Springville at the 2012 Erie County Fair.

Legislator Mills, along with Cornell Cooperative Extension and 4-H



organizers, held an informational meeting on Nov. 14 to introduce the many programs available to interested youths and their parents.

"It was an incredible success. Several families attended to learn more about this

outstanding organization and I am hopeful many will continue to participate for years to come," said Legislator Mills. "I learned a lot about the various programs available and was very impressed with the exhibits and 4-H presenters."

Anyone interested in learning more about 4-H, can contact Laurie Korb, 4-H Community Educator, at 652-5400 ext. 130 or email [llk47@cornell.edu](mailto:llk47@cornell.edu).

### SantaLand Planned!

Legislator Mills announces that SantaLand will be held at Chestnut Ridge Park, 6121 Chestnut Ridge Road, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on **Saturday, Dec. 15** and **Sunday, Dec. 16**.

This popular event features arts and crafts, sledding and hay rides to visit Santa until 2:30 p.m.

## Rabies Clinics serves record number of pet owners

In total, 5,680 pets were vaccinated through the 2012 Erie County Rabies Clinics.

The 2012 free rabies clinics administered a record number of vaccinations to dogs, cats and ferrets at six clinics held throughout Erie County.

In total, 5,680 pets were vaccinated.

Legislator Mills thanks the staff and volunteers from the County Department of Health, Niagara Frontier

Veterinary Society and the SPCA Serving Erie County for making these clinics huge successes.

The following totals for animals vaccinated were recorded:

**N. Buffalo Community Center - 505**

**Springville Fire Hall - 698**

**American Legion Post #1041 - 1,300**

**SPCA - 1,175**

**Clarence Highway Garage - 633**

**West Seneca Highway Garage - 1,369**

The 2013 schedule has not been finalized. Legislator Mills will announce those dates when they become available.

## Unsung Heroes Honored



2012 Unsung Heroes were honored Sept. 8, 2012 at the Creekside Banquet Facility.

Legislator Mills was honored to be named a 2012 Unsung Hero by the General Pulaski Association, along with Richard Augustyn, Robert Narkiewicz, Betty Jane Urbanski, Dorothy Wrazin Poole, David P. Lipinoga, Lisa Florczak, Philip Smolinski, Dr. Kenneth D. Anthone, Theresa Gonciarz, Noreen

Lewandowski, Karen Karalus Karamanoukian, Norbert C. Czosek and Donna Zellner Neal. Honored posthumously were: James Makowski, William Skretny, Gerald Bielawski and Jackie Schmid.

"Thank you to the General Pulaski Association for the honor of being named an

Unsung Hero. It is a privilege to be included among this year's other honorees who give so much back to the community day in and out. I am lucky to have the opportunity to serve the people of Erie County," said Legislator Mills.

The dinner was held Sept. 8.

### Hot Dog Fundraisers exceed \$30,000 for six-year total



Legislator Mills thanks the community for supporting his Hot Dog Roast Fundraisers, and the directors and library board members for making them possible. Pictured, from left and clockwise, West Falls-Colden Community Library, Collins Public Library, Angola Public Library, Concord Public Library, Orchard Park Public Library, Eden Public Library, North Collins Public Library and Boston Free Library.

Legislator Mills is pleased to announce that at the close of his sixth round of Hot Dog Roast Fundraisers, more than \$30,000 has been raised for the library branches in his district.

"Since starting these fundraisers six years ago, a significant amount of money has been raised for the library to support ongoing efforts to provide quality programming and materials," said Legislator Mills.

This year's fundraisers totaled:

**Angola - \$916**

**Boston - \$760**

**Collins - \$1,070**

**Concord - \$1,410**

**Eden - \$806**

**Orchard Park - \$1,209**

**North Collins - \$805**

**West Falls - Colden - \$1,145**

"This is the first year I held roasts in Angola, Eden, North Collins and Boston, following redistricting, and I was impressed by the community support," said Legislator Mills. "I am looking forward to next year's events and breaking each library's record."

Legislator Mills held the first fundraisers in 2007 and donates a portion of his salary to purchase the supplies.

"A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF MONEY HAS BEEN RAISED FOR THE LIBRARY TO SUPPORT ONGOING EFFORTS TO PROVIDE QUALITY PROGRAMMING AND MATERIALS."

### Yellow Dot program now recognized in Erie County

Legislator Mills announces that Erie County is now operating a Yellow Dot program to assist residents involved in an accident or suffering from a medical emergency in their vehicle or residence.

Made possible by the New York State Sheriffs' Association, the Yellow Dot

program is simple, yet lifesaving. Anyone who chooses to participate just needs to place the round, Yellow Dot circle (pictured right) on their driver's side, rear vehicle window or at the entrance of their residence, to alert first responders to the Yellow Dot form (also pictured right) that is stored in the glove compartment or

on the refrigerator in the residence. The form includes pertinent medical information that will assist first responders in treating the patient. In an emergency, every second counts.

To request a copy of the Yellow Dot packet, please contact Legislator Mills at (716) 858-8850.



Yellow Dot packets are available through Legislator Mills' office.



## News from Legislator John Mills

PROUDLY SERVING THE 11TH DISTRICT



Western New York Southtowns Scenic Byway unveils new signage in the Village of Orchard Park in the summer of 2012.

### CONTACT LEGISLATOR JOHN MILLS

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**A**s 2012 comes to a close, we not only reflect on the past year but look forward to the next. That is the same approach I take when reviewing the County Executive's proposed 2013 budget. The Legislature has to question if the 2012 budget was an adequate reflection of the past year and what changes are necessary in the next budget. This annual cycle is necessary to properly fund services that protect the residents of Erie County, while being mindful of taxpayers. I can't say it enough, residents are a vital part of the process. If you haven't already, please complete the 2013 Erie County Budget Survey. The link can be found on the front page of this newsletter or at [www.erie.gov/legislature/district11](http://www.erie.gov/legislature/district11). Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

## Proclamations Presented to Outstanding Citizens & Groups



Captain John Kasmer was honored at the Oct. 11, 2012 session for his dedication to WNY veterans. Legislators John Mills and Edward Rath presented the proclamation. Mr. Kasmer organized a Veteran's Day Parade held Saturday, Nov. 10 along Delaware Avenue in the City of Buffalo. Residents lined the street to salute our heroes and welcome them home.

Legislator Mills honored the following individuals and groups for their outstanding commitment to the community:

Eden Boys & Girls Club for 10 years of serving the town and surrounding areas.

Louis R. Palma on receiving the Abraham Lincoln Award from the Town of Evans Republican Committee.

Pioneer Cemetery, in the Town of Evans, on being registered as a National and State Historic site.

Buffalo Niagara on its great success in hosting the 2012 Ontario Motor Coach Association Marketplace in Buffalo from October 20 - 24, 2012.



Legislators Lorigo and John Mills marked National Farmer's Day with a proclamation honoring Cornell Cooperative Extension Executive Director Deborah Roberts, CCE Community Educator for Agriculture Sharon Bachman, New York Farm Bureau representative Tim Bigham and Erie County Farm Bureau

Jeremy and Margaret Jacobs on receiving the Olmsted Legacy Award for Excellence in Preservation.

### Citizen of the Month to be named in December

Legislator Mills will honor an outstanding resident from his district in December as part of the Legislature's Citizen of the Month Award program. To learn more about Legislator Mills' honoree, please visit his website at [www.erie.gov/legislature](http://www.erie.gov/legislature) following the Dec. 20 session.

For information on recommending a proclamation recipient, please contact Legislator Mills office. Suggestions are welcomed and encouraged as Legislator Mills believes in recognizing the outstanding efforts and accomplishments of individuals and groups.